

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

VOLUME 14. Part 17. Pp. 393—402

OPINION 433

Use of the Plenary Powers to secure that the generic name
Discias Rathbun, 1902 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda)
shall be the oldest available name for the genus concerned



LONDON :

Printed by Order of the International Trust for
Zoological Nomenclature
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7
1956

Price Six Shillings and Sixpence

(All rights reserved)

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 433

A. The Officers of the Commission

Honorary Life President : Dr. Karl JORDAN (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England*)

President : Professor James Chester BRADLEY (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.*)
(12th August 1953)

Vice-President : Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*) (12th August 1953)

Secretary : Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (27th July 1948)

B. The Members of the Commission

(*Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*)

Professor H. BOSCHMA (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)
(1st January 1947)

Senor Dr. Angel CABRERA (*La Plata, Argentina*) (27th July 1948)

Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (27th July 1948) (*Secretary*)

Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) (27th July 1948)

Professor Teiso ESAKI (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*) (17th April 1950)

Professor Pierre BONNET (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950)

Mr. Norman Denbigh RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950)

Professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950)

Professor Robert MERTENS (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a.M., Germany*) (5th July 1950)

Professor Erich Martin HERING (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th June 1950)

Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*S. Paulo, Brazil*) (12th August 1953) (*Vice President*)

Professor J. R. DYMOND (*University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada*) (12th August 1953)

Professor J. Chester BRADLEY (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (12th August 1953) (*President*)

Professor Harold E. VOKES (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.*)
(12th August 1953)

Professor Béla HANKÓ (*Mezőgazdasági Múzeum, Budapest, Hungary*) (12th August 1953)

Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (12th August 1953)

Mr. P. C. SYLVESTER-BRADLEY (*Sheffield University, Sheffield, England*) (12th August 1953)

Dr. L. B. HOLTHUIS (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)
(12th August 1953)

Dr. K. H. L. KEY (*Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia*) (15th October 1954)

Dr. Alden H. MILLER (*Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, U.S.A.*)
(29th October 1954)

Doc. Dr. Ferdinand PRANTL (*Národní Museum v Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia*) (30th October 1954)

Professor Dr. Wilhelm KÜHNELT (*Zoologisches Institut der Universität, Vienna, Austria*)
(6th November 1954)

Professor F. S. BODENHEIMER (*The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel*) (11th November 1954)

Professor Ernst MAYR (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (4th December 1954)

Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria," Genova, Italy*)
(16th December 1954)

OPINION 433

USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SECURE THAT THE
GENERIC NAME "DISCIAS" RATHBUN, 1902
(CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) SHALL
BE THE OLDEST AVAILABLE NAME FOR
THE GENUS CONCERNED

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers the generic name *Anisocaris* Ortmann, 1893, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1029 :—*Discias* Rathbun, 1902 (gender : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Discias serrifer* Rathbun, 1902) (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda).

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1049 :—*serrifer* Rathbun, 1902, as published in the combination *Discias serrifer* (specific name of type species of *Discias* Rathbun, 1902).

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 744 :—*Anisocaris* Ortmann, 1893, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) above.

(5) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 92 :—DISCIADIDAE (correction of DISCIDAE) Rathbun, 1902 (type genus : *Discias* Rathbun, 1902) (first published in correct form, as DISCIADIDAE by Kemp (1920)).

(6) The under-mentioned family-group names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 77 and 78 respectively :—

- (a) DISCIDAE Rathbun, 1902 (type genus : *Discias* Rathbun, 1902) (an Invalid Original Spelling for DISCIADIDAE) ;
- (b) DISCIIDAE Lebour, 1949 (type genus : *Discias* Rathbun, 1902) (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for DISCIADIDAE).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 23rd September 1954, Dr. L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature the following application for the use of the Plenary Powers to secure that the generic name *Discias* Rathbun, 1902 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) should become the oldest available name for the genus commonly so known through the suppression of the generic name *Anisocaris* Ortmann, 1893, which, as Dr. Holthuis explained, had been shown by later workers to be based upon the larva of a species of *Discias* :—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to validate the generic name
“*Discias*” Rathbun, 1902 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda)**

By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

In 1902 Miss M. J. Rathbun (*Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.* 4 : 290) described a genus *Discias* from the Galapagos Islands and made it the

type of a new family that she named DISCIDAE, but that at present more correctly is generally called DISCIADIDAE. After the original publication of this name by Rathbun, four more species of the genus were discovered, two in the Atlantic, and two in the Indo-West-Pacific region. Though the published records of these animals are rather few (because of their small size they probably have often been overlooked), the genus is well known to carcinologists because of its very peculiar features.

2. In 1893 Ortmann (*Ergebn. Plankton Exped.* 2(Gb) : 74) described from the Atlantic Ocean a larval Macruran, which he named *Anisocaris dromedarius*, erecting a monotypic new genus for it. Gurney's (1939, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (11) 3 : 388—393) and Lebour's (1941, *J. linn. Soc. Lond.* (Zool.) 41 : 95—102) researches on larval Decapoda made it clear that *Anisocaris dromedarius* Ortmann, 1893, is the larva of a species of *Discias* Rathbun, 1902. A strict application of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature would require that the generic name *Discias* should be replaced by that of *Anisocaris*. The identity of the species *Anisocaris dromedarius* is not known, it may be the larva of either of the two Atlantic *Discias* species, but might as well be the larva of a species of which the adult form is still unknown.

3. In view of the fact (1) that the name *Discias* has become firmly established in carcinological literature, (2) that the name *Anisocaris* has hardly ever been used, and has never been employed for adult specimens, and (3) that it is undesirable that the family DISCIADIDAE should not contain a genus bearing the name *Discias*, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is hereby asked :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers :—

(a) to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy the generic name *Anisocaris* Ortmann, 1893 (*Ergebn. Plankton Exped.* 2 (Gb) : 72, 74) (type species, by monotypy : *Anisocaris dromedarius* Ortmann, 1893, *Ergebn. Plankton Exped.* 2 (Gb) : 74) ;

(b) to validate the generic name *Discias* Rathbun, 1902 (*Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, 4 : 290) (type species, by monotypy : *Discias serrifer* Rathbun, 1902, *Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, 4 : 290) (gender : masculine) ;

(2) to place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the name *Discias* Rathbun, 1902, as validated under (1)(b) above ;

(3) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* the name *Anisocaris* Ortmann, 1893, as suppressed under (1)(a) above ;

- (4) to place on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* the specific name *serrifer* Rathbun, 1902, as published in the combination *Discias serrifer* ;
- (5) to place on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* the name DISCIADIDAE (correction by Kemp (1920, *Rec. ind. Mus.* **19** : 137, 138) of DISCIDAE) Rathbun, 1902 (*Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **4** : 289) (type genus : *Discias* Rathbun, 1902) ;
- (6) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* the under-mentioned names :—
- (a) DISCIDAE Rathbun, 1902 (an Invalid Original Spelling for DISCIADIDAE) ;
- (b) DISCIDAE Lebour, 1949 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* **118**(4) : 1107) (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for DISCIADIDAE).

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Dr. Holthuis's application the question of the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers to secure that the generic name *Discias* Rathbun, 1902, should be the oldest available name for the genus concerned was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 829.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 13th October 1954 and published on 30th December in the same year in Part 11 of Volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Holthuis, 1954, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **9** : 332—333).

4. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 30th December 1954 (a) in Part 11 of Volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Holthuis's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given also to certain general zoological serial publications.

5. No objection received : The publication of Dr. Holthuis's application and the accompanying issue of the Prescribed and other Public Notices elicited no objection to the action proposed to be taken in the present case.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(55)11 : On 5th August 1955 a Voting Paper (V.P.(55)11) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the generic name *Discias* Rathbun, 1902, and associated matters, as set out in Points (1) to (6) in paragraph 3 on pages 332 and 333 in Volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the points so numbered in paragraph 3 of the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

7. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 5th November 1955.

8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)11 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)11 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-three (23) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Bodenheimer ; Holthuis ; Riley ; Vokes ; Stoll ; Hering ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Lemche ; Prantl ; Hankó ; Mayr ; do Amaral ; Esaki ; Kühnelt ; Dymond ; Key ; Mertens ; Bonnet ; Hemming ; Miller ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Cabrera ; Jaczewski ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, two (2) :*

Boschma¹ ; Tortonese¹.

9. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 6th November 1955, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(55)11, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

¹ After the close of the Prescribed Voting Period late affirmative votes were received from Commissioner Boschma and Commissioner Tortonese.

10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " :

On 18th May 1956, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(55)11.

11. Original References : The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Anisocaris Ortmann, 1893, *Ergebn. Plankton Exped.* **2**(Gb) : 72, 74

Discias Rathbun, 1902, *Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **4** : 290

serrifer, *Discias*, Rathbun, 1902, *Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **4** : 290

12. The following are the original references for the family-group names placed on the *Official List* or on the *Official Index* established for recording the names of family-group taxa :—

DISCIADIDAE Kemp, 1920, *Rec. ind. Mus.* **19** : 137, 138 (type genus : *Discias* Rathbun, 1902) (correction of DISCIDAE Rathbun, 1902)

DISCIDAE Rathbun, 1902, *Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **4** : 289 (type genus *Discias* Rathbun, 1902)

DISCIIDAE Lebour, 1949, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* **118**(4) : 1107 (type genus : *Discias* Rathbun, 1902)

13. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Four Hundred and Thirty-Three (433) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Eighteenth day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Six.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING